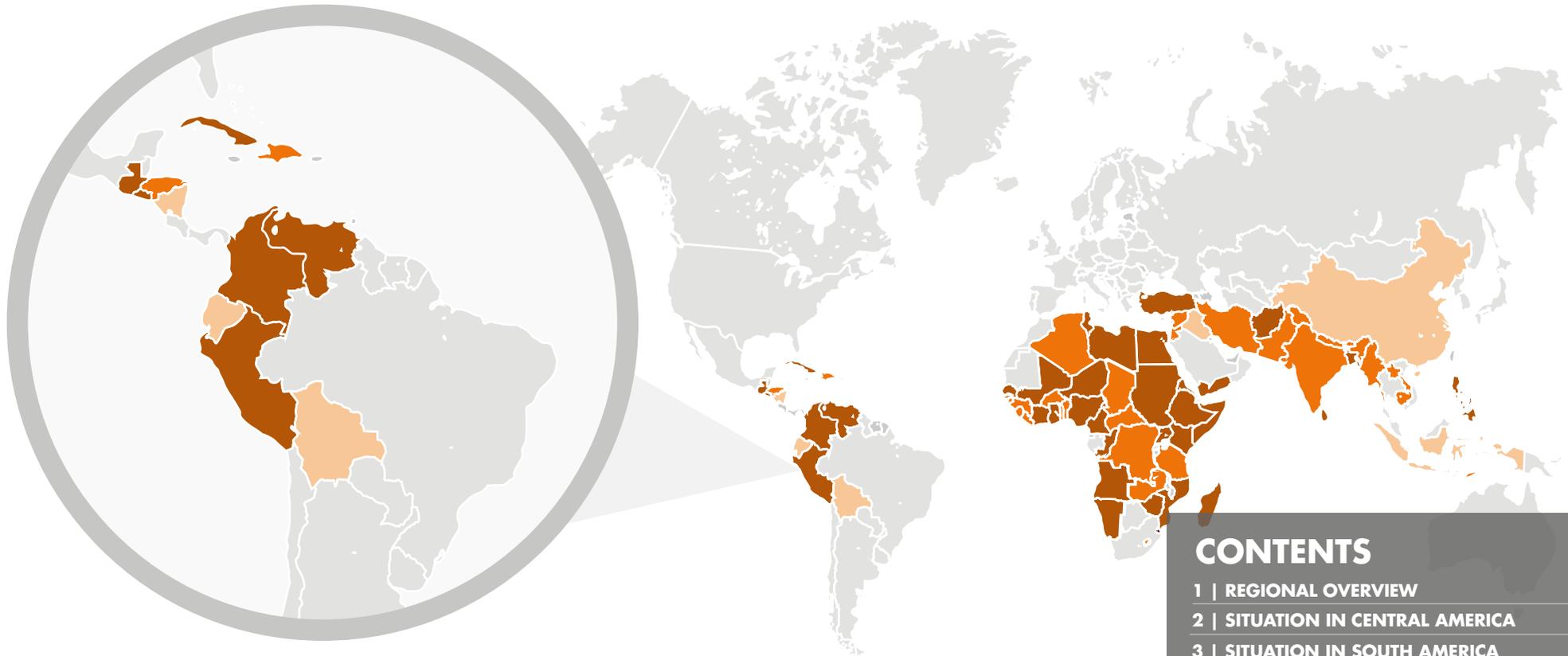


A NEW CRISIS HITS LATIN AMERICA



THE 45 COUNTRIES MOST EXPOSED TO THE EFFECTS OF THE CURRENT FOOD CRISIS¹

LEVEL OF RISK: ● High ● Medium ● Low

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LATIN AMERICA

JULY NEWSLETTER - 2022



¹ BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP (BCG), The War in Ukraine and the Rush to Feed the World, May 2022



THERE IS LESS INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE CAPACITY TO COPE WITH THIS NEW CRISIS



In recent years, Latin American countries have had to face significant challenges. Poverty has been increasing steadily since 2015, as has hunger, which affects more people every year. In this context, the region has faced the largest displacements of people ever recorded, there have been high-impact natural disasters and it has been the area of the world hardest hit by the effects of the pandemic. As a result, **the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has nearly tripled in the last 3 years** (OCHA). Now, the new global crisis will be particularly acute for Latin American families.

As indicated by the United Nations Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG), we are facing the largest **cost-of-living crisis** of the twenty-first century, caused by **rising prices of food** (+22.8% according to the FAO), energy (+50%), fertilizers (double the 2000 - 2020 average) and transport (maritime transport, for example, is three times the pre-pandemic average). This increase in prices generates a vicious cycle and causes **inflation** and higher interest rates, which in turn erodes the investment capacity of already indebted governments and the purchasing power of households.

People's capacity to cope with this new crisis is decreasing. According to ECLAC, in 2022 the incidence of regional poverty will reach between 33% and 33.7%, while extreme **poverty** will affect 14.5% or 14.9% of the population, depending on inflation estimates. On the other hand, the sharp slowdown in economic activity and inflation will have an effect on labor markets, boosting

unemployment in 2022 (ECLAC). This affects women the most, as they have been pushed out of the **labor market** to a greater extent during the pandemic. It is also women who suffer the most from hunger in Latin America, which is the region in the world with the largest gender gap in moderate or severe food insecurity, as confirmed in the *State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2022* (SOFI). In the same report, we see how moderate or severe **food insecurity** continues to increase, reaching 40.6% of the region's population in 2021, the highest percentage in the last 7 years.

In this context, the effects of **rising fertilizers prices** are of particular concern, since Latin America is one of the regions of the world with the lowest self-sufficiency capacity. In fact, 78% of fertilizers used in agriculture are imported, with the Russian Federation being one of the main suppliers, according to ECLAC data. Considering that the price of fertilizers has a significant impact on agricultural costs (from around 20% in the case of rice, potatoes, and sugar cane to 40% in the case of yellow maize and coffee), there will be an immediate effect on the income generation of **small farmers**, but in the medium and long term this situation could lead to the current problem of access to food becoming a problem of availability in some areas.

Governments are also in a worse position to cope with this new crisis. ECLAC has revised downwards the region's economic growth, while governments face **rising public debt**, high costs of responding to and recovering

from natural disasters, and reduced capacity to activate **social protection** programs after the significant investment made during the pandemic.

This context will lead to more **violence and social unrest** (as we have just seen in Ecuador), and it will be the most fragile families who will pay the highest price for this crisis: **high energy and food prices disproportionately affect those families who spend most of their income on food.**

These very poor families, and those very close to the poverty line, "start making painful trade-offs: reducing meals or the quality of them, dropping out of schools, or reducing healthcare spending. Often these decisions affect women and girls the most. These decisions have worrying long-term effects, from higher poverty levels, to rising inequality" (GCRG).



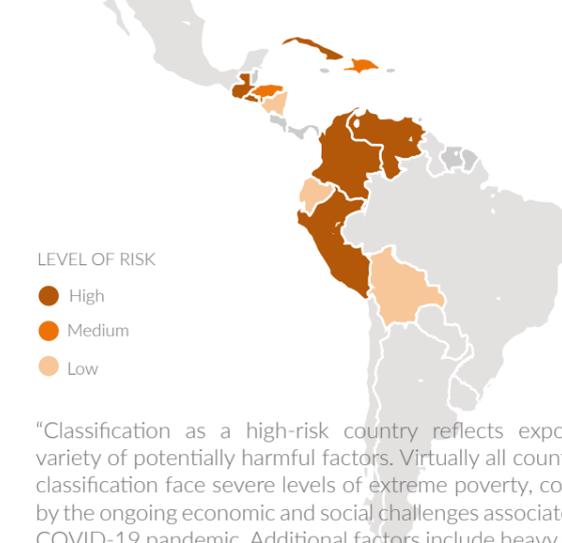
THIS NEW GLOBAL CRISIS IS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING FAMILIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND TOGETHER WE SHOULD ENSURE THAT NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND

This is why the UN Global Crisis Response Group warns that "between 1.6 billion and 1.7 billion people live in countries severely exposed to at least one of the three transmission channels of the crisis, namely, rising food prices, rising energy prices and tightening finances. Of greatest concern, 1.2 billion people live in countries exposed to all three dimensions at once". **At least 19 countries in Latin America face this triple affectation.**

In the same vein, the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) has published an analysis of the level of exposure of each country, combining risk rating across the following contributing factors:



Based on this analysis, **forty-five countries around the world have been identified as being severely exposed to the impact of the current food crisis.** Among them: **GUATEMALA, VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND PERU, AND TO A LESSER EXTENT HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA.**



"Classification as a high-risk country reflects exposure to a variety of potentially harmful factors. Virtually all countries in this classification face severe levels of extreme poverty, compounded by the ongoing economic and social challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional factors include heavy reliance on food imports, high import bills, high inflation, a high debt burden, climate risks, and civil unrest.

This **perfect storm** of factors means not only that this is a near-term crisis, but also that any reprieve over the next couple of years could be unlikely" (BCG).

In view of this situation, **Action Against Hunger is making a CALL TO ACTION** to the humanitarian community and local actors.

It is essential that donors, who have been so actively involved in the response to the pandemic and migratory movements, do not stop supporting the region. Now is the time to redouble efforts and reverse the worrying stagnation in the **financial coverage** of Humanitarian Response Plans, which currently stands at between 10% and 17% (OCHA).

On the other hand, it is important that the humanitarian community and local actors work together to improve the **availability of data** in order to target and focus humanitarian response towards those most in need, especially in a global context with more needs than ever before.

In the same way, it is critical that we all improve the quality of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the prioritization of actions in **Humanitarian Response Plans**, especially in those countries where this exercise is relatively recent.



GUATEMALA



In Guatemala, it is estimated that 4.6 million people face a situation of Crisis (Phase 3) or Emergency (Phase 4) of food insecurity between June and September 2022, a period in which the most severe stage of seasonal hunger develops. According to **the forecasting system developed by Action Against Hunger PREDISAN** which forecasts the food security situation based on agro-climatic, socioeconomic and environmental data, 4% of Guatemala's population would be in a zone of concern of very high food insecurity, and up to 40% of the population in a high zone².

One of the factors that could be contributing to the worsening of acute food insecurity is the rise in food prices, particularly in basic grains. The National Statistics Institute (INE) indicates that a family of five needs US\$427.90 per month to purchase the basic food basket to cover the average caloric load for survival. The average minimum wage is US\$267.

Another factor is the increase in the prices of fertilizers and agricultural inputs, in addition to the restrictions on food exports by producing countries worldwide and the increase in the price of fuels that increase the cost of transportation and logistics of domestic and imported products. In Guatemala, the price of different fertilizers has increased an average

of 85% since 2021, while gas has increased by 46%.

The same IPC analysis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) indicates that for the seasonal hunger period, food reserves are expected to be depleted in communities that already have unsatisfied basic needs, especially in the Dry Corridor, where there is greater dependence on subsistence agriculture.

Households are facing this lean season with lower than normal incomes due to the reduction of planting areas due to high fertilizer prices, which leads to a reduction in agricultural employment. Households are expected to reduce the number of meals per day, as well as the amount of food included in their diet. In addition, they are expected to employ negative coping strategies, such as migration or the sale of their productive assets, which will cause them to enter into Crisis (Phase 3).

The price trend is upward, both in the basic food basket, as well as in fuel and agricultural inputs. This would have an even greater impact on acute malnutrition figures (moderate and severe), which according to Ministry of Health figures at the end of May accumulated 9,422 cases of children under 5 years of age with acute malnutrition nationwide.

URGENT NEEDS



Due to price increases and the unstoppable effects of climate change, **rural indigenous families** living in the Guatemalan Dry Corridor are once again the most vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition. The increase in fuel and food prices makes it **extremely difficult for them to travel to the municipal capitals and buy in local markets.**



On the other hand, the increasingly long-lasting **droughts** and the increasingly heavy rains prevent many families from being able to opt for self-subsistence. This situation forces some **2.5 million people to opt for negative strategies in order to survive**, so it is urgent to facilitate their access to nutritious and varied food.



For more information about PREDISAN visit our web page [HERE](#) ✨



We found that due to rising prices, spending on food by vulnerable families has risen from 78% of total income to 86% (in the case of urban areas, this rises to 91%).

In this situation, four out of five families have been forced to ask for help to be able to eat and one in five has had to adopt more severe strategies such as restricting the consumption of adults so that the younger ones can eat.

Data collection

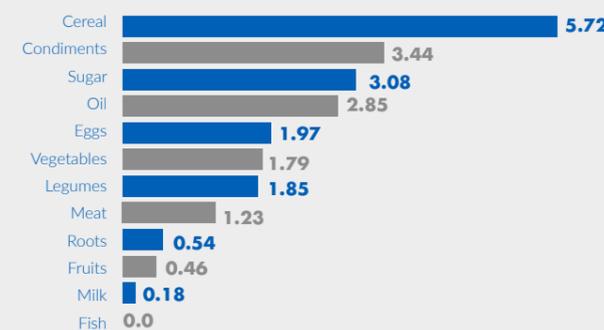
MAY 2022
1,081 households in 14 departments in the Dry Corridor or affected by ETA and IOTA

COPING STRATEGY INDEX (rCSI)



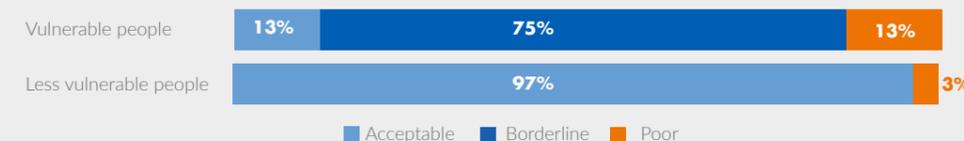
It is important to note that the hunger gap period in the Dry Corridor extends from May to October, so further deterioration is to be expected in the following months.

HOUSEHOLD DIETARY DIVERSITY SCORE (HHDS)



Rising food prices have also been reflected in dietary diversity. On average, eggs, vegetables and pulses are consumed less than two days a week, while milk, fish and fruit are not consumed on almost any day. These food groups are essential for their supply of protein (animal and vegetable) and micronutrients.

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)



Rising prices do not affect households equally: while almost all households with stable incomes have a balanced diet in terms of protein, fat and carbohydrate intake (classified as "acceptable"), almost 9 out of 10 vulnerable households have a poor diet.

More information, [HERE](#) ✨



We feel we are weaker

CARMEN

In Carmen García's household, the income is no longer enough to pay the price of eggs, beans, sugar and meat, foods that they used to eat every day.

Carmen lives in a village in the Dry Corridor with her husband Rigoberto Ramirez and their 8 children. Rigoberto is a day laborer and, if he is lucky and works three times a week, his weekly income can reach \$15.00. "Before we used to earn Q.35.00 a day (\$4.50), but corn was Q 1.25, so we could buy beans, eggs and meat a week. Now we no longer buy those foods because of the price increase," says Carmen.

While the daily wage remains the same, corn has experienced a 50% increase since December 2021. The price of beans, which they used to consume on a daily basis, has also increased. Carmen maintains that the adults in the house only do two meal times to ensure that their children have food all three times, "but it's not a varied diet like they used to do with eggs and rice, and so it doesn't feel the same to keep them strong".



² Click on "PREDICTIONS" on page 3 or turn to page 76.



In Nicaragua, the challenges for humanitarian action and access are increasing, because restrictions are increasing and the number of organizations that can operate in the country is decreasing: during the first half of the year, 958 NGOs have had their legal status cancelled. In this context, the increase in international prices of goods and services has had an impact on the cost of the basic food basket which, since the beginning of the year, has maintained a constant upward trend, and by June of this year has reached approximately U\$481, according to information from the National Institute of Development Information (INIDE).

The average minimum wage is U\$197. The rise in prices is influenced by the increase in the cost of fuel, which in turn impacts the cost of transportation. To compensate for this effect, the authorities have maintained the subsidy on fuels and liquefied petroleum gas for domestic use since March 2022.

The global commodity boom, according to the Economic Commission for

Latin America (ECLAC) has estimated that it will bring more poverty to Nicaragua and affect at least 46.8% of Nicaraguans, 1.5% more than last year.

According to ECLAC, the factors affecting this situation at regional level are inflation -Nicaragua has the highest inflation rate in Central America (8.74%); the low rate of employment recovery and the low economic growth. According to the organization, Nicaragua will consolidate its position among the three most impoverished economies in the hemisphere.

The lack of available data due to the current political context does not allow for comparisons at the departmental level. However, according to the data we have in the platform **PREDISAN**³ 3% of the population of Nicaragua would be in a zone of concern of very high food insecurity, and up to 37% of the population in a high zone.

URGENT NEEDS



The population living in the **North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region**, mostly indigenous, is still suffering the effects of hurricanes Eta and Iota, which destroyed their livelihoods and left them without subsistence alternatives, even more so when it is an area that **receives little state assistance**.



The hope for these populations to receive humanitarian assistance is affected by the narrowing of the humanitarian space with the closure of international and local NGOs, as it is a remote area with difficult access. This population, left in extreme vulnerability, **faces in the worst conditions the escalation of food prices**.



The price of the basic food basket has increased by 8% since December 2021, with a 19% increase in the price of maize, 40% of beans and 40% of oil, which are basic foodstuffs for the population.

Spending on food ranges from 74% for the most vulnerable families to 48% for the least vulnerable families.

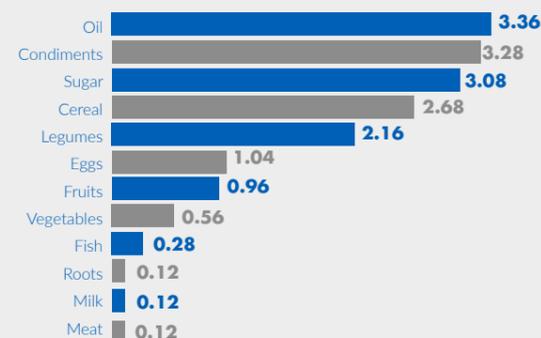
Data collection
MAY 2022
1,073 HOUSEHOLDS in 14 departments located in the Dry Corridor or that were affected by ETA and IOTA.

COPING STRATEGY INDEX (rCSI)



The adoption of coping mechanisms is widespread in families, including the practice of the most severe strategies, such as restricting consumption by mothers and other adults.

HOUSEHOLD DIETARY DIVERSITY SCORE (HHDS)



The consumption of animal protein by the most vulnerable households is practically nil (with the exception of eggs, consumed once a week), and fruit and vegetables are not consumed, on average, not even 1 day a week. Some 9% of vulnerable households in rural areas consume less than 2 foods per day.

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)



Only 12% of the most vulnerable families have access to a balanced diet of protein, fat and carbohydrates.

More information, [HERE](#)



For Chindiana Cortez and her family, having three meals a day is a dream. She describes her family's situation as "bad" and comments that "sometimes I look, but I don't find (food) and so I fall asleep, we only eat one meal a day".

This mother of four children, who lives in the Buenos Aires neighborhood of the municipality of Waspam, in the North Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region, says that when she manages to earn an income, it is around 100 cordobas (less than 3 dollars) "and if I get a job, I spend it the same day".

With that amount of money she cannot cover his family's needs. "One hundred pesos is nothing, I get the rice, but for meat and other things it is not enough, not even the bastimentos (bread or tortillas)".

She washes other people's clothes and, if she is lucky, earns money to support her children. Her partner has no steady job, he lives cleaning other people's land. But even if he does earn an income, buying salt, oil and soap is almost impossible, let alone meat. "I can't make it, I would like to, but I can't." When the need is greater, she says she has had to resort to selling her belongings. "I keep doing it, selling my things, like my pots and pans and my dishes, I pawn everything for food."



³ Click on "PREDICTIONS" on page 3 or turn to page 76.



HONDURAS



Available data for Honduras show that up to 24% of the population will be in Crisis (Phase 3, IPC) and 4% in Emergency (Phase 4, IPC). According to our predictive system **PREDISAN** 14% of the population of Honduras would be in a very high food insecurity zone of concern, and up to 71% of the population in a high zone, between June and September 2022.

Inflation has increased, especially in food (+6.3%) and transportation (+3.6%) between January and May 2022.

Historically, the months from June to August are those with the highest increases in food prices, and seasonal hunger is accentuated due to the lack of reserves, which concludes with the beginning of the first harvest cycle in mid-August. This condition will result in an increase in the price of basic food basket products, mainly corn and beans. In addition, the seasonal depletion of basic grain reserves in producer households is expected, increasing the number of households dependent on purchases.

This situation is especially difficult for people on

forced movement. By the end of 2021, the number of returned Honduran migrants resembled the figures observed before 2020. In the last semester, the number of returned migrants exceeded 50,000 people, resembling the migratory flows observed in 2019, where more than 110,000 people were returned. According to information from CENISS (National Center for Social Sector Information of Honduras), in recent years, 61% of returned migrants presented conditions of extreme poverty. It is also observed that 87% of the migrants who have returned between 2019 and 2021 presented high levels of food insecurity.

Since the beginning of 2022, the Honduran southern border has been experiencing a daily emergency situation due to the increase in the flow of irregular migrants in transit from at least 9 countries, who due to administrative measures required by the country remain for several days on Honduran soil, in precarious conditions (lack of food, health, hygiene and security) that place them in a highly vulnerable situation.

URGENT NEEDS



Central American countries are characterized as places of origin, transit and return of migrant populations. **Thousands of people cross the region in search of a better life in the north, but they also receive hundreds of people who are deported and when they are returned they often return to a situation of greater vulnerability than the one they fled.** Most return with nothing, which coupled with the huge debts they incur to the coyotes who guide them on their way to the United States, exacerbates their food insecurity situation and poses numerous protection risks.



In 2021, there were close to 53,000 returnees to Honduras. This figure has already been exceeded in the first half of 2022. This makes it essential to **provide a comprehensive response that contributes to ensuring food security and protection for migrants in transit and returnees.**



INTERVIEW COUNTRY DIRECTOR CENTRAL AMERICA

FULL INTERVIEW [HERE](#)



The price of the basic food basket has increased by 5% since December 2021, with a 68% increase in the price of maize, 23% of beans and 15% of oil, which are basic foodstuffs for the population.

Spending on food for the most vulnerable families has risen from 73% to 87%.

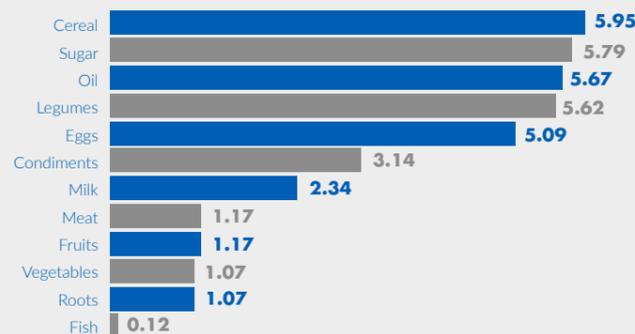
Data collection
MAYO 2022
901 households in 13 departments of the Dry Corridor or that were affected by ETA and IOTA.

COPING STRATEGY INDEX (rCSI)



Although the situation in Honduras is less critical than in Guatemala and Nicaragua, the most disadvantaged families are not exempt from adopting coping strategies, in some cases severe ones.

HOUSEHOLD DIETARY DIVERSITY SCORE (HDDS)



Historically, June to August are the months with the highest increases in food prices, so a reduction in consumption of certain food groups is likely during the seasonal hunger period.

FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE (FCS)



The percentage of vulnerable households that have access to a balanced diet in Honduras is higher than in the other two countries in the region. However, 1 in 4 households falls below an "acceptable" diet.

[More information, HERE](#)



There have been times when we have gone to bed with only a glass of water.

PATRICIA

Patricia Canales and her two children only eat one meal a day: lunch. Patricia's income of \$48 per week does not allow her to guarantee the three meal a day.

According to her, the money she earns is barely enough to buy some beans, three eggs and half a pound of rice.

"I cannot go to a supermarket and buy food because I have no money, I am not ashamed to say it, we do not eat breakfast or dinner, we only eat lunch to make ends meet, because the basic food basket is very high and you cannot eat meat. There, once a week we have a pound of chicken, an egg, a little piece of cheese. There have been times when we have gone to bed with just a drink of water, because there is no money," she says.

At 49 years of age, she says it is difficult to get a formal labor contract, so she decided to emigrate irregularly to the United States. After a first attempt to board the "train of death", she suffered a fall that left her with knee injuries. She tried again, but was detected by Mexican Immigration and returned to her country.



⁴ Click on "PREDICTIONS" on page 3 or turn to page 76.



COLOMBIA



The early warning issued by FAO at the beginning of 2022 on acute food insecurity in Colombia already alerted that up to 7.3 million Colombians could need food assistance this year.

Now, food access is being significantly affected by the increase in the prices of consumption goods, inflation and unemployment. So far this year, the country has experienced a drastic increase in the price of food. According to the National Statistics Office of Colombia - DANE, annual inflation for June was 9.67%, 6.04% higher than that reported for the same period in 2021. Food showed an increase of 23.65%, 8.6 percentage points above the 2021 increase (15.05%). Another contributing factor was the 43% rise in imported agricultural inputs (mostly from Russia and Ukraine), while herbicides had an increase of 59.3%, as well as imported fuels and foods due to the devaluation of the Colombian peso against the US dollar by 14.53%.

The current monetary poverty is 39.3% at the national level, which

generates a low purchasing power of the population for the purchase of food, which is the main priority of families. In fact, by May 2022, 22.1% of households in the country report consuming only two meals a day (DANE).

On the other hand, the rise of armed violence in at least 60% of the country has increased several needs, including the lack of access to food. In 2022, there have been 156 humanitarian emergencies, 33,800 people have been displaced, 60,700 confined with mobility restrictions, and 139,000 affected by disasters. Similarly, Colombia hosts 1.8 million migrants from Venezuela, and according to the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees 2022, 55% of them are in a situation of moderate and severe food insecurity, 31% of households use negative strategies to obtain food and 94% earn less than the minimum wage.

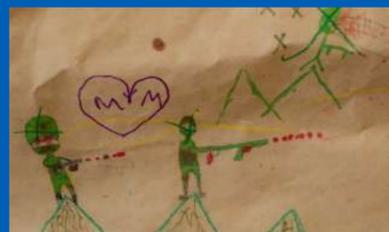
URGENT NEEDS



The post-pandemic socioeconomic effects and the current crisis affect the most vulnerable Colombian and migrant population. **Opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion and formal jobs for migrants and Colombians** expelled from the labor market during the pandemic remain **very limited and underfunded**. In addition, in-transit families, children under the age of 11 and mother-headed households face more difficulties and significant protection risks.



On the other hand, the restructuring of the armed groups and the struggle for territorial control has caused an **increase in the armed violence that continues to worsen**. According to our data (information system of the Inter-Agency Mechanism for Humanitarian Response - MIRE), the departments most affected by displacement and mobility restrictions are Chocó, Antioquia, Nariño, Arauca, Putumayo, Córdoba, and Cauca. **It is important to ensure humanitarian access and provide assistance to the population of these territories.**



Information systems of the MIRE consortium
FULL PLATFORM [HERE](#)

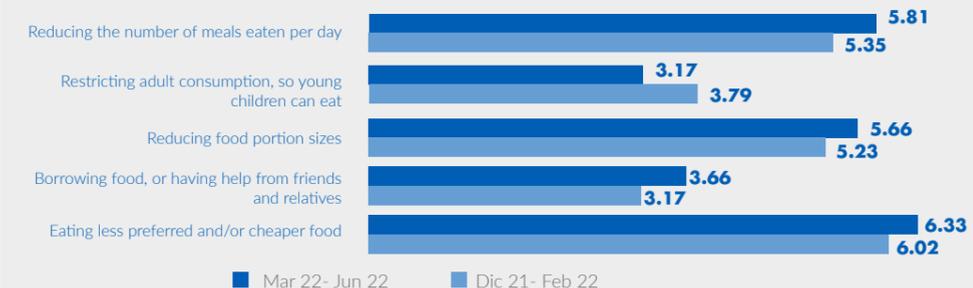


Data collection

MAY - JUNE 2022

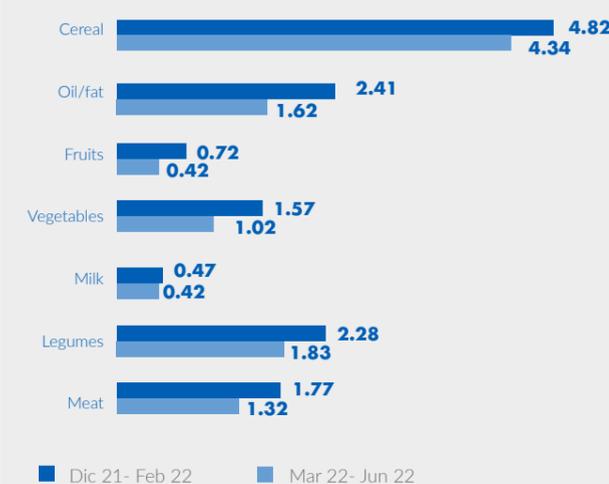
4,191 household surveys in **Cundinamarca, La Guajira and Nariño** to obtain information on the situation of households in areas where there are various factors that may affect food security (reception of migrants/displaced persons, natural disasters and armed violence).

COPING STRATEGIES (rCSI) - NARIÑO



In Nariño, for example, we see a worsening situation for the most vulnerable households. Four of the five coping mechanisms have increased in frequency, forcing families to consume cheaper food 6 days a week, or to implement more severe strategies, such as reducing portion sizes or limiting the number of meals per day, more than 5 days a week.

DIETARY DIVERSITY - NARIÑO



The dietary diversity of the same families has also been affected, showing a decrease in frequency in all food groups. Fruit and milk stand out, which on average are consumed less than 1 day a week, and vegetables and meat, which are consumed 1 day a week. This pattern of "forced" consumption declines translates into dietary deficits in animal protein, micronutrients and fats.

The increase in the prices of basic food basket items has affected oil, cereals, milk and fruits in particular. Although the general price of pulses has fallen, there has been an increase in the price of lentils, the main source of protein when the consumption of animal protein is reduced in the most vulnerable families.

[More information, HERE](#)



MANUEL'S THIRD WAVE OF UNCERTAINTY

"In 2019 I arrived in Colombia and worked in whatever came up, I scavenged for food, but the pandemic came and since we couldn't work, we ended up living on the street," says Manuel, who was forced to migrate to Colombia. Shortly after arrival, he run through the few saving that he had to the point of being evicted from the room that he and his family had "at that moment we were left as when we arrived, only with our clothes because they took our belongings to pay for what we owned them." Manuel and his family found refuge in a shelter, he was encouraged by his sister to make "tequeños", cheese sticks that his father produced in his country. "Most of the people who were in the shelter were Venezuelans, I taught them how to make the product, each one packed 20 trays in fridge to sell them".

Things progressed well and thanks to their entrepreneurial spirit, he managed to rent a room and started to make ends meet. The business grew to such an extent that 12 members of his family migrated and started working. Manuel's dreams were growing, he planned to be a distributor of the main commercial premises in Bucaramanga.

However, the constant increase in prices of the raw materials caused the profit margin to be reduced. Currently, sales are not enough to cover expenses "I am afraid, first I must cover rent for the place where we work and live, then I have to pay rent for the equipment because without it I cannot work, and what's left is for food. We sell the tray for \$7,500, but if I raise the price I will lose my clients," says Manuel who is preparing to face a situation of uncertainty and anguish for the third time.





PERU



Peru's current situation implies that with each new crisis the country regresses years in its development and fight against hunger and social inequality. While in 2017 Peru was one of the six examples highlighted in the Gates Foundation's "The Stories Behind the Data" report, in 2021, after the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 50.5% of its population faces a real risk of moderate or severe food insecurity (SOFI 2022). In addition, anemia affects 38.8% of children between 6 and 35 months, chronic malnutrition affects 11.5% of children under 5 years of age, 30% of the population is in a situation of monetary poverty and almost 80% of employment is informal (INEI 2021).

The Consumer Price Index in Lima has risen to 8.81%, and at the national level it has increased to its highest level in 25 years (INEI). Peruvian families are facing increases of almost 20% in the prices of some food items, such as eggs, without access to formal employment, without savings after the pandemic, with a higher fiscal deficit and public debt growth

because of COVID-19, and with insufficient protection mechanisms from the State. Peru imports more than 1.2 million tons of chemical fertilizers per year to cover the needs of about 50% of farmers (about 1.7 million agricultural producers), with Russia being the main supplier of nitrogen fertilizers, followed by China. Regarding fuel, for every 100 barrels of oil consumed, 75 are imported, so the international market price increase has had a strong impact on the market, leading to transport strikes (with 15 deaths). Moreover, Peru is a country that is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Every year the State must invest in emergency response, but it is one of the most backward countries in terms of prevention measures and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

This critical juncture comes at a time of strong political instability, as the country has had 4 presidents in the last two years and the current government changes ministers, on average, every 9 days.

URGENT NEEDS



It is urgent to respond to the food insecurity situation of the population in urban and peri-urban contexts, both the local population and vulnerable migrants who are being extremely affected.



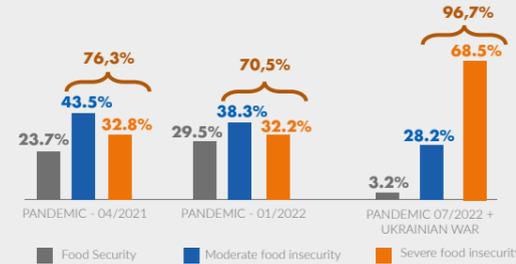
Addressing the lack of (economic) access to food and resources by this vulnerable population is urgent, as well as reducing the risk of a decreasing availability of food in the markets due to the crisis.



To achieve this, it will be key to address the lack of access to sustainable livelihoods as a mechanism for ensuring household food security. The participation of all stakeholders, State, private sector and cooperation will be key to achieve this.

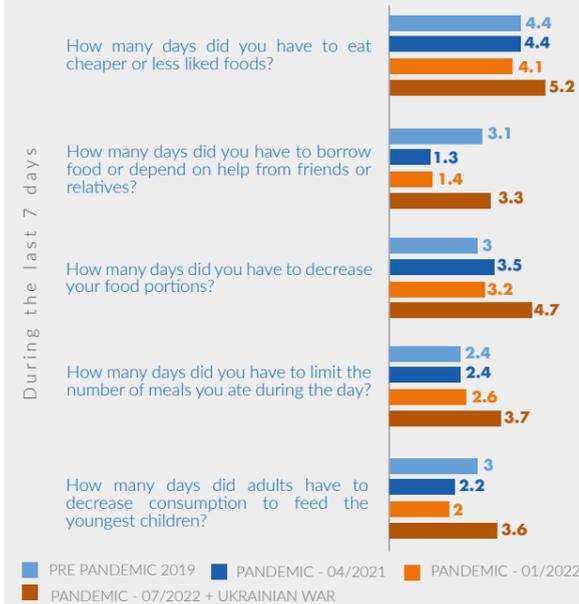


FOOD INSECURITY AMONG VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS*



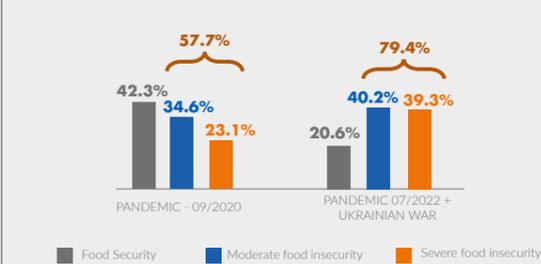
The slight improvement in food security experienced by Venezuelan migrants in January 2022 deteriorates after the war in Ukraine, with severe food insecurity doubling. By mid-2022, only 3% of the migrant population is food secure.

COPING STRATEGY INDEX (rCSI) IN MIGRANT FAMILIES



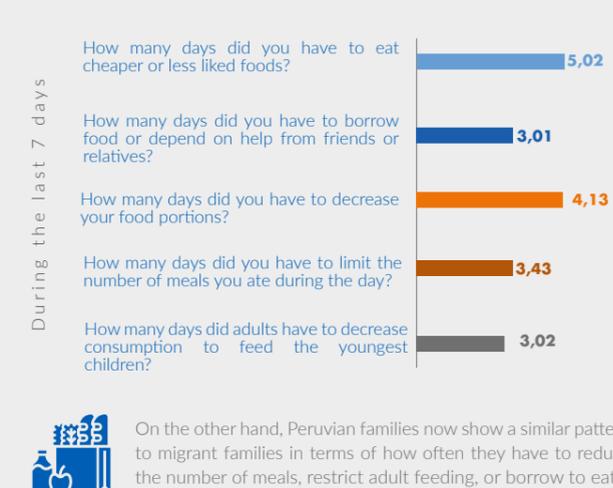
In migrant families, the deterioration of food security is reflected in the frequency with which they have had to adopt coping strategies due to shortages. Among the most severe, the number of days on which adults have had to stop eating to feed the youngest members of the family has almost doubled.

FOOD INSECURITY IN PERUVIAN FAMILIES*



Peruvian households have also experienced a deterioration in their food security, with 80% of households being moderately or severely food insecure.

COPING STRATEGY INDEX (rCSI) IN PERUVIAN FAMILIES



On the other hand, Peruvian families now show a similar pattern to migrant families in terms of how often they have to reduce the number of meals, restrict adult feeding, or borrow to eat.

Both groups report greater difficulty in purchasing a variety of nutritious foods and have reduced their consumption of cereals, meats, dairy products, fruits and vegetables compared to pre-war periods in Ukraine. In the case of migrants, the purchase of eggs has increased due to the possibility of buying eggs by the unit, although the quantities consumed are insufficient for a balanced diet (1-2 units in a meal shared by the whole family).

More information, [HERE](#)

*Source: FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) Survey FAO



“My husband is a taxi driver and now he doesn't even earn enough to rent the taxi.”
HERLINDA PILLACA

The current food crisis, aggravated by war, climate change and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, has driven up food and fuel prices. Herlinda Pillaca's household is already suffering the economic consequences. "My husband is a taxi driver and now he is having a hard time because fuel is very expensive. He doesn't even earn enough to rent the taxi, so it is affecting us a lot economically," she explains.

In addition, the family has had to change their eating habits: they no longer eat three meals a day, but two. She admits that in some cases she and her husband refrain from eating fish or chicken in order to give that meat to their children; the adults eat stew with rice for lunch. They prioritize breakfast and lunch; for dinner they have a small snack or water and some leftovers from lunch. Meat, a luxury for many households, has been replaced by fish, which is more affordable.

They consume the cheapest foods and those that are produced in large quantities, such as squash. "What has gone up a lot is the price of potatoes, peas, carrots, tomatoes, oil, sugar and eggs" she explains. On the other hand, they cannot eat a lot of fruit because the prices are high, and their children's school snack has been reduced to a smoothie of apple water.





MIGRATION IS A COMMON COPING STRATEGY IN LATIN AMERICA, BUT WHEN IS IT ACTUALLY SUCCESSFUL?



In a region where there are more than **18.4 million** forcibly displaced people (UNHCR⁵), leaving your country, your community and your home is the decision taken by many families who see no other way out. The movements of people in South and Central America are very diverse, in terms of the type of journey (international migration/refugee, forced return, internal displacement) and, also

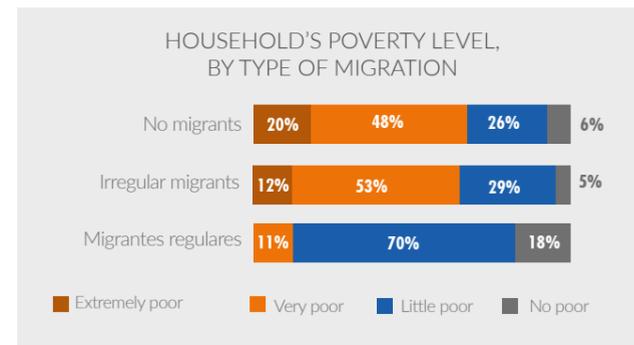
in terms of the visibility and traceability of the people on the move, but they all share the same causes: hunger, violence and natural disasters.

Given this situation, we carried out a study in Guatemala to understand to what extent the expectations of migrants are fulfilled, and above all, what are the effects of the different migratory paths in the homes and communities of origin. An essential differentiating element among different migratory experiences is the **regular or irregular** nature of the process followed. Thus, a distinction is made between **circular and regularized migration** that links the country of origin and destination, through which a very limited number of Central Americans have access to a temporary employment contract in the US or Canada, or the alternative that is mostly adopted by those who embark on their way north through a hazardous journey that, if they manage to reach their destination, will imply a long stay, more than **10 years** on average without returning home, and that will be marked by the absence of rights. These two ways of undertaking emigration entail very different consequences; costs and risks of the trip, access to jobs in the place of destination, the associated salaries, the characteristics and amount of remittances, or the relations with the family and the community of origin, among many other factors, will be drastically modified depending on the condition of regularity or irregularity of the migratory experience. These two itineraries are completed with a third alternative; not emigrate, remain in the Central American community or municipality of residence.

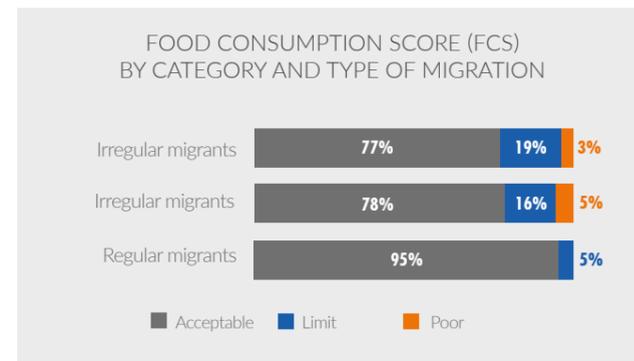
The findings of this study **“Different ways to get to the north, different ways to live in the south”** are result of comparing the socioeconomic conditions of rural households in the western region of Guatemala, according to their migratory experiences, distinguishing among households in which at least one of its members has emigrated to the US irregularly, families in which at least one of its members has emigrated regularly through temporary employment programs with the United States, or households in which all its members remain in the rural community of origin or in another Guatemalan municipality.

KEY FINDINGS:

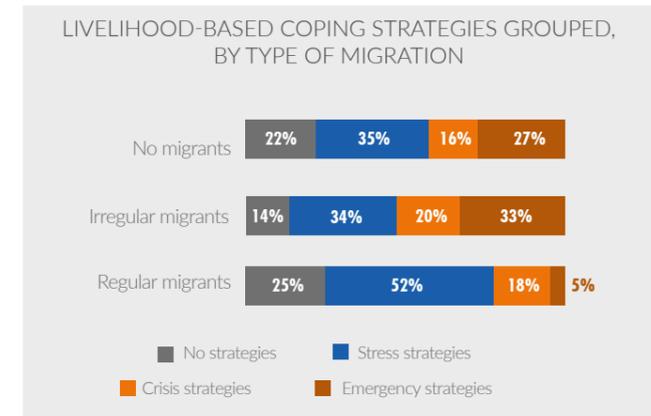
The irregular migration of some member of the domestic unit would not be influencing **poverty conditions** of households in global terms. In contrast, none of the households where a member migrated regularly would be in extreme poverty.



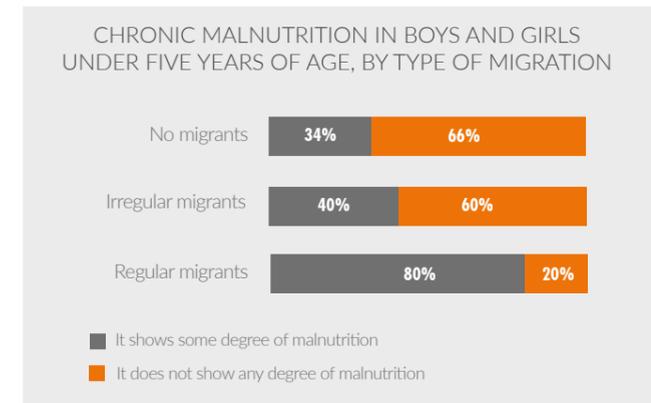
While irregular migration does not significantly improve the dietary conditions of households compared to households without migrant members, regular migration is associated with a strong reduction in **food insecurity**, improves dietary diversity and food consumption patterns of families.



⁵ Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons and stateless persons.

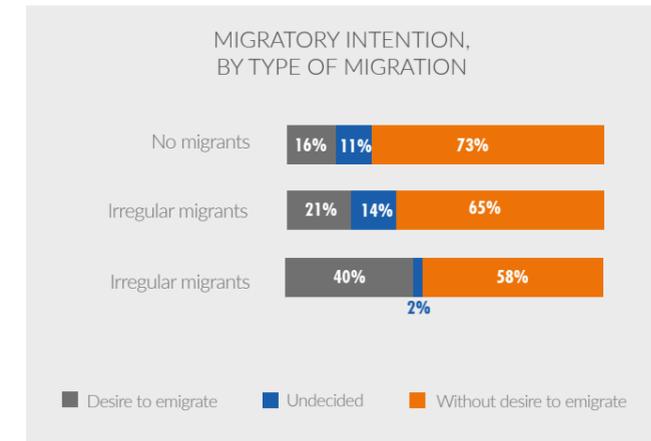


Households in which at least one of their members has access to temporary work visas in the US have a prevalence of **chronic child malnutrition** of 20%, compared to the average 60% measured among children under 5 years of age in households in which at least one person has emigrated irregularly, and 67% among those families in which no one had emigrated.



The regularity or irregularity of the migratory experiences of the household does not strongly modify the **migratory intention** of the people surveyed; households with regular migrants value migration more positively, but also show higher levels of satisfaction with life in their communities of residence.

⁶ <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/6228a5d54.pdf>



Findings of this study allow us to conclude that **regular migration**, mainly represented by temporary work programs to the United States, would significantly improve the living conditions of households, but would also enable people to undertake a safe journey; while **irregular migration**, much more frequent in the communities analyzed as in the rest of the region, would not involve a substantial improvement compared to households without migrant members, while posing numerous protection risks, including exposure to gender-based violence, trafficking and other threats to physical security⁶, and would accentuate family and community uprooting.

In conclusion, the wages generated in temporary regular migration programs contribute to alleviating poverty in the communities of origin, serve to improve housing, invest in children's education, improve access to health care or acquire livelihoods that allow them, over time, to build a future together with their families.

We hope that these findings will contribute to the existing debate in Latin America on the management of migration flows, while offering guidelines for international cooperation programs and public policies aimed at boosting the positive aspects of migration, channeling its benefits towards sustainable development and increased well-being in communities of origin, and minimizing its negative impacts.



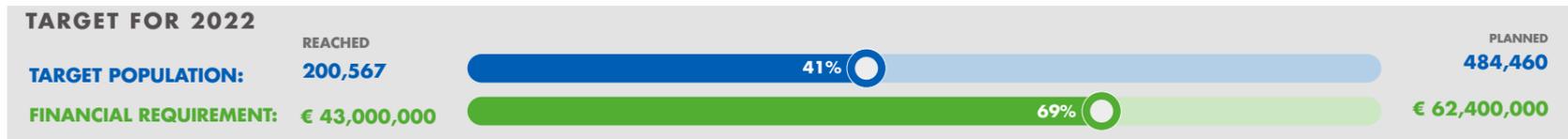
[LINK TO THE COMPLETE STUDY HERE](#)

[LINK TO THE INFOGRAPHY HERE](#)





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